

Applicant: Ridwan Shabsigh
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Amendments to the claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of~~ for increasing or maintaining the blood supply in the penis of a subject which method comprises introducing a ~~gene~~ nucleic acid comprising a gene encoding a vascular endothelial growth factor into a suitable cell in the subjects' penis under conditions ~~such~~ permitting that the nucleic acid expresses expression of vascular endothelial growth factor in the cell so as to thereby increase or maintain the blood supply in the subject's penis.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim & 9, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a vector.
11. (Original) A method of increasing or maintaining the blood supply in the genital area of a female subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of vascular endothelial growth factor effective to increase or maintain the blood supply in the subject's genital area.